

Message Text

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SUBJ: USSR: AUGUST WEATHER AND CROPS REPORT

1. IN MANY REGIONS OF THE EUROPEAN USSR, ESPECIALLY IN MID-MONTH, RAINY WEATHER MADE HARVESTING DIFFICULT DURING AUGUST. THE GREATEST PRECIPITATION WAS RECORDED IN THE CENTRAL OBLASTS. IN MOSCOW AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS, AUGUST PRECIPITATION REACHED SIX-SIX AND ON-HALF INCHES, ABOUT TWICE THE MONTHLY AVERAGE. DURING THE PAST 96 YEARS, AS MUCH RAIN WAS RECORDED ONLY IN 1918 AND 1953.

2. IN THE NORTHWESTERN OBLASTS OF THE RSFSR, BALTIC STATES, AND ESPECIALLY IN BELORUSSIA, WEATHER DURING AUGUST WAS DRY WHICH FAVORED HARVESTING. AT THE END OF THE MONTH AVERAGE TEMPERATURES IN THE EUROPEAN USSR WERE FIVE TO 9 DEGREES F. COOLER THAN USUAL. IN THE NORTHERN AND CENTRAL OBLAST OF THE NON-CHERNOZEM ZONE FIRST FROST WAS NOTED, SOME 10-20 DAYS EARLIER THAN USUAL.

3. SOIL MOISTURE IN THE EUROPEAN USSR IS GOOD ALMOST EVERYWHERE WHICH IS FAVORING SUGARBEET GROWTH, LATE

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VEGETABLES AND THE ROOTING OF WINTER GRAINS. SUGARBEETS

ARE CONTINUING INTENSIVE GROWTH; IN MOST REGIONS THE WEIGHT OF THE ROOTS IS MUCH GREATER THAN A YEAR AGO. IN THE CENTRAL CHERNOZEM ZONE AND MIDDLE VOLGA THEIR SIZE IS ABOUT TWICE THAT OF LAST YEAR.

4. POTATOES COMPLETED THEIR BEGATATIVE STAGE IN THE UKRAINE, MOST PARTS OF THE CENTRAL CHERNOZEM ZONE, MIDDLE VOLGA, BELORUSSIA AND SOUTHERN BALTIC STATES. DYING OF THE VINES HAS BEGUN ALSO IN OTHE CENTRAL OBLASTS OF THE NON-CHERNOZEM ZONE. AVERAGE WEIGHT OF TUBERS PER PLANT WAS 500 TO 700 GRAMS -- SIGNIFICANTLY MORE THAN LAST YEAR.

5. CORN REPORTEDLY HAS REACHED WAX STAGE IN NORTH CAUCASUS, MOST OF THE UKRAINE (EXCEPT NORTHERN AND WESTERN OBLASTS), AND LOCALLY IN SOME SOUTHERN PARTS OF THE CENTRAL CHERNOZEM ZONE. HARVESTING IS JUST BEGINNING ON SOME FARMS. BECAUSE OF COOL WEATHER AT THE END OF AUGUST THE NORTHERN BOUDARY OF CORN IN MILK STAGE DID NOT ADVANCE DURING THE LAST 10 DAYS OF AUGUST AND CONTINUED ALONG THE LINE KIEV-VORONEZH-KUIBYSHEV.

6. WINTER GRAINS IN THE NORTHWESTERN PART OF THE EURO-PEAN USSR STARTED TO ROOT WHILE IN THE CENTRAL OBLASTS AND MIDDLE VOLGA THEY ARE JUST BEGINNING TO SPROUT. GOOD SOIL MOISTURE FAVORED ROOTING BUT COOL WEATHER RETARDED GROWTH MORE THAN USUAL. IN WESTERN SIBERIA AND NORTHERN OBLAST S OF KAZAKHSTAN AUGUST WEATHER WAS WARM AND DRY WHICH AIDED THE HARVEST. DURING THE LAST FEW DAYS OF THE MOHTH THE WEATHER BECAME COOL AND RAINY. CONSEQUENTLY THE DRYING OF THE WINDROWED GRAINS IS EXPECTED TO PROGRESS SLOWLY. IN EASTERN SIBERIA, AUGUST WEATHER WAS COOL WHICH DELAYED RIPENING OF THE GRAINS. WARM DRY WEATHER DEVELOPED AT THE END OF THE MONTH.

7. IN THE FIELDS OF CENTRAL ASIS COTTON IS DEVELOPING WELL. WARM WEATHER IS AIDING BOLL FORMATION AND RIPENING. IN LONG STAPLE FIELDS AN AVERAGE OF 12 TO 14 COTTON BOLLS WERE COUNTED PER PLANT AT THE BEGINNING OF SEPTEMBER WHICH IS ONE OR TWO MORE THAN LAST YEAR. IN THE SOUTHERN REGION

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COTTON HARVESTING BEGAN 10 TO 12 DAYS EARLIER THAN USUAL.

8. SOURCE: "SELSKAYA ZHIZN", SEPTEMBER 4.
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